



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Construction begins at Harry S. Truman Dam

**WARSAW, Mo.—** The Kansas City District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers initiated construction earlier this month on a concrete overlay that will repair erosion on the floor of the stilling basin at the Harry S. Truman Dam.

The erosion, identified in the late 1980s, occurs during spillway releases below 80,000 cubic feet per second when a rolling current pulls downstream rocks upstream into the stilling basin. The rocks bump and roll along the floor and have eroded it up to 3.5 feet in places.

To repair the erosion, the Kansas City District competed and awarded a contract for \$2.54 million to ASI Dam and Water Resource Constructors from Pueblo, Colo., to construct the overlay. ASI will construct the overlay entirely underwater with highly-trained underwater construction divers to avoid dewatering the stilling basin; dewatering the stilling basin could impact hydro-power generation or the ability to release possible flood waters over the spillway.

Construction activities include debris removal from the stilling basin; tests to confirm the concrete mix design and concrete placement procedures; installation of anchors to hold down the overlay; concrete placement using a tremie system; drain installation to relieve uplift pressures during spillway releases; and then final testing of the overlay to ensure it meets strength requirements. The tremie concrete placement method places concrete underwater through a pipe to prevent washing out the cement content. Basin cleaning is scheduled to start within the next few days and will last approximately three weeks. Construction of the overlay is expected to be complete by June 2011.

ASI's divers will work through the winter using dive suits with a hot water circulation system connected to a surface barge to keep them warm while working underwater. The divers operate in a four-man team, but each day they can only stay underwater for 92 minutes initially, then another 46 minutes after a six-hour break. The time limits are due to the 48-foot depth of the water in the stilling basin and ensure the divers don't develop nitrogen bubbles in their bloodstream after resurfacing.

"It will be challenging work in the stilling basin because visibility is less than two feet underwater," said ASI's Marine Division Manager Pete Dobbs. "But our divers are well trained and very experienced, and we look forward to safely constructing the overlay."

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“The overlay is a unique project for the Kansas City District, but we’ll have an experienced team overseeing the construction and we’re excited to get started,” said Ken Wertz, the Corps’ construction quality assurance representative for the project. “The Corps is making a great effort to control the spread of aquatic nuisance species with the contractors we hire.”

This is the first project in the Kansas City District where the contractor is required to comply with regulations to prevent contamination by aquatic nuisance species, particularly zebra mussels, and to prevent their spread to other areas. Zebra mussels are known to inhabit the Lake of the Ozarks, which is immediately downstream of the Truman Dam. All of ASI’s equipment entering or leaving the water will be cleaned and inspected to ensure ANS aren’t spread to other areas.

Fishing access won't be impacted below the stilling basin, but fishing is not allowed in the stilling basin where the divers will be working.

ASI’s activity and numerous pieces of equipment including barges, a crane, and dive equipment will be visible from the recreation area near the dam, but the public is advised to avoid entering the construction area for their own safety.

David Kolarik, the Kansas City District’s Public Affairs officer, is available to answer additional questions from the public at (816) 389-3486 or [david.s.kolarik@usace.army.mil](mailto:david.s.kolarik@usace.army.mil). Construction photos are available upon request.

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